

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 02640 102208Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 FBIE-00 JUSE-00 L-03  
USSS-00 CA-01 HA-05 VO-05 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00 ICAE-00  
/063 W

-----074950 102214Z /64

O R 102139Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8837  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 2640

BUENOS AIRES FOR LEGAL ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV SHUM CI  
SUBJ: LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE: DEVELOPMENTS APRIL 7-10

REF: SANTIAGO 2573

1. THE GOC EXPULSION OF MICHAEL TOWNLEY, DECREED ON THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 7 AND EFFECTED THE FOLLOWING MORNING, RECEIVED EXTENSIVE FRONT-PAGE MEDIA TREATMENT OVER THE WEEKEND. THE GOC BASED ITS ACTION ON DECREE LAW 1094 OF JULY 1975, GRANTING THE PRESIDENT THE POWER TO EXPEL FOREIGNERS WHO VIOLATE CHILEAN RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS. THE SAME DECREE GIVES THE AFFECTED PERSON 24 HOURS TO APPEAL THE EXPULSION TO THE SUPREME COURT.

2. TOWNLEY'S LAWYER MANUEL ACUNA PRESENTED AN APPEAL AT THE SAME TIME HIS CLIENT WAS BOARDING AN ECUATORIANA AIRCRAFT FOR THE U.S. HE LATER CRITICIZED THE GOC DECISION NOT TO HONOR THE 24-HOUR WAITING PERIOD AND ARGUED, FURTHER, THAT THE EXPULSION SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT  
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 02640 102208Z

BECAUSE TOWNLEY WAS STILL AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE CONCEPCION COURT OF APPEALS (PARA 2 OF REFTEL). ACUNA ALSO ALLEGED THAT TOWNLEY POSSESSED SENSITIVE GOC INTELLIGENCE, WHICH IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY.

3. EDITORIAL COMMENT. PREDICTABLY, ONLY GOC-OWNED

"EL CRONISTA" HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH THE TOWNLEY DENOUE-  
MENT. THE RAPID ACTION AFTER THE EXPULSION DECREE WAS  
ISSUED CONSTITUTES FURTHER PROOF OF THE FULL COOPERA-  
TION OF THE GOC, AND OF PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S INTEREST  
IN SEEING THE ENTIRE LETELIER/MOFFITT INVESTIGATION  
CARRIED THROUGH TO COMPLETION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.  
"LA SEGUNDA," ECHOING LAWYER ACUNA, ASKED WHETHER PROPER  
LEGAL PROCEDURES WERE CARRIED OUT. IT SAID THAT THE  
US IS CONTINUOUSLY PRESSURING CHILE ON HUMAN RIGHTS BUT  
THAT WE DROP SUCH CONCERNS WHEN ONE OF OUR OWN INTERESTS  
IS AT STAKE. "EL MERCURIO," DOING A BALANCING ACT,  
FIRST CONCLUDED THAT CHILE HAD NO OTHER COURSE THAN TO  
PROCEED RAPITLY WITH THE TOWNLEY EXPULSION (APRIL 9) AND  
THEN (APRIL 10) SEEMED TO LAMENT THE APPARENT FAILURE  
OF THE GOVERNMENT TO ADHERE TO THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS SET FOURTH  
IN DL 1094: AT A MINIMUM THE GOC OWES ITS PUBLIC A CLEAR  
EXPLANATION OF EVENTS.  
LANDAU

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** ASSASSINATION, EXPULSION, PRESS COMMENTS, INVESTIGATIONS, COURT PROCEEDINGS  
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